

RUSHDEN URBAN DISTRICT.

Annual Reports

For the Year 1921,

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

O. A. J. N. MURISSET,

M.B., Ch.B., Edin.,

AND OF THE

Sanitary Inspector,

FREDERICK S. F. PIPER,

M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

RUSHDEN :

J. F. COOK, PRINTER, CHURCH STREET.

RUSHDEN URBAN DISTRICT.

Chairman of Council :

Councillor W. BAZELEY, J.P.

Chairman of Health and Sanitary Committee :

Councillor T. SWINDALL.

Members of Health and Sanitary Committee :

Councillor J. SPENCER. Councillor F. KNIGHT, J.P.

„ L. PERKINS, B.Sc „ J. HORNSBY.

Councillor W. BAZELEY, J.P.

Medical Officer of Health :

O. A. J. N. MURISSET, M.B., CH.B., EDIN.

Sanitary Inspector :

FREDERICK S. F. PIPER, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

SUMMARY.

AREA	...	...	...	3,777 Acres.
POPULATION CENSUS—1901	...	...	...	12,447
„	„	1911	...	13,354
„	„	1921	...	13,511
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES	...	...	...	3,076

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 LIVING	...	..	19.89
DEATH-RATE	„	„	10.71
INFANTILE MORTALITY PER 1,000 BIRTHS			80.5

WATER SUPPLY { HIGHAM FERRERS AND RUSHDEN
WATER BOARD.

SEWERAGE SEPARATE SYSTEM.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL { SEDIMENTATION TANKS AND
DOUBLE FILTRATION.

URBAN DISTRICT OF RUSHDEN.

Statistical Memoranda, 1921.

SITUATION.

Latitude, $52^{\circ} 17'$ N.—Longitude, $0^{\circ} 36'$ W.

AREA.

3,777 acres.

GEOLOGICAL FORMATION.

Limestone, Sand and Clay.

ELEVATION OF AREA.

150 feet to 300 feet.

POPULATION.

Census, 1921—13,511.

Estimated to middle of June, 1921—13,720.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES.

Census, 1911—2,863.

June, 1921—3,076.

RAINFALL.

11.96. Below average.

WATER SUPPLY.

Constant Service.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

By water carriage for the most part.

BIRTH RATE.

19.89 per 1,000.

DEATH RATE.

10.71 per 1,000.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

80.5 per 1,000 births.

PHTHISIS DEATH RATE.

1.02 per 1,000.

RUSHDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To the CHAIRMAN and COUNCILLORS of the URBAN DISTRICT OF RUSHDEN.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report on the Public Health of the district under your administration for the year 1921.

Before proceeding with the actual subject matter of the report I feel that it is my duty to mention the sudden death towards the end of the year of my predecessor the late H. S. Baker, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., who had for many years acted most ably as your Medical Officer of Health, and under whose administration the health of the town made remarkable improvement. I am sure I am right when I say that by his death the town lost one of its best friends.

Owing to the suddenness of Mr. Baker's death it has been a little difficult to procure many of the documents necessary for the compilation of this report. I therefore must ask the indulgence of the Council in this my first Annual Report of the town's health.

The form of this report will, at the suggestion of the Ministry of Health (Circular 269, 28th Dec., 1921) be somewhat varied from that previously presented to you. Many of the details (the Survey Reports) are this year omitted, and much of the statistical information is presented in tabular form following the lines of the Ministry of Health circular.

General Statistics.

Area	...	...	(acres)	3,777
Population (1921)	...	Census 1921, 13,511, R.G.		13,720
No. of Inhabited Houses (1921)	...	..		3,076
No. of Families or separate occupiers (1921)	..			3,361
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£46,911
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£160

Under the heading of population it will be noticed that two figures are given, the first viz. :—13,511, is the actual figure found at the Census taken in June, 1921. The second figure—13,720, is the estimated population of the Registrar General and the one on which the statistics are based. This estimated figure is considerably lower than that for last year, viz. : 14,402.

On comparing the number of inhabited houses with the number of separate families or occupiers it will be seen that the number of families exceeds the number of houses by 285.

Extracts from Vital Statistics during the Year.

			Total	M.	F.
Births	{ Legitimate	...	264	137	127
	{ Illegitimate	...	9	6	3
Totals			273	143	130

Birth Rate (R.G.) 19·89.

Deaths 147. Death Rate (R.G.) 10·71.

No. of Women dying in or in consequence of childbirth :—

(a) from sepsis	...	Nil
(b) from other causes	...	1

Deaths of Infants under one year, per 1,000 births :—

Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
80·58	333·33	80·5

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 1

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) Nil

The Local Birth Rate.

The total number of Births for the district as returned by the Registrar General for the year 1921, was 273, of which

143 were males and 130 were females, giving a Birth Rate of 19·89. These figures do not compare very favourably with those for 1920, viz. :—328 or the rate of 22·77.

	1919	1920	1921
Birth Rate—Rushden ...	14·27	22·77	19·89
Birth Rate—England & Wales	18·5	25·4	22·4

It will be seen from the above table that the Local Birth Rate remains consistently below that for the whole country.

Local Death Rate.

The total number of deaths for the district according to the returns of the Registrar General was 147—68 males and 79 females giving a General Death Rate of 10·71.

	1919	1920	1921
Local Death Rate ...	11·02	9·23	10·71

Although not as low as last year's figures the 1921 Death Rate may still be regarded as satisfactory when it is considered that last year's estimation was made on a much larger estimated population than this year.

Infant Mortality.

This year the infant mortality rate (number of deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 infants born) is 80·5, which may be considered satisfactory, although it is in excess of last year's figures.

	1919	1920	1921
Infant Mortality Rate ...	131	73·17	80·5

The rate for England and Wales for 1921 was 83. The fact that there has been a rise in local infant mortality rate for 1921 must not be regarded with too much pessimism, for with the steadily improving housing one may expect better results in the near future. As has already been pointed out there are still large numbers of houses which accommodate more than one family. Such houses can never be suitable for the bringing up of young children.

The following table shows in detail the causes of death as returned by the Official Registrar :

		Males	Females	Total
Enteric Fever ...	...	0	1	1
Small Pox ...	...	0	0	0
Measles ...	...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	...	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	...	0	1	1
Diphtheria ...	...	0	0	0
Influenza ...	...	3	3	6
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	0	0	0
Meningococcal Meningitis ..	..	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	...	7	7	14
Other Tuberculous Disease		0	3	3
Cancer and Malignant Disease		9	3	12
Rheumatic Fever ...	...	0	0	0
Diabetes ...	...	0	1	1
Cerebral Hemorrhage ...	...	1	6	7
Heart Disease ...	...	3	10	13
Arterio Sclerosis ...	...	2	4	6
Bronchitis ...	...	3	5	8
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	..	3	2	5
Other Respiratory Diseases		1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum		0	0	0
Diarrhoea &c. (under 2 years)		2	1	3
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	...	0	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver ..	..	0	0	0
Acute and Chronic Nephritis		3	3	6
Puerperal Sepsis ..	..	0	0	0
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition			1	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth		7	4	11
Suicide ...	..	0	1	1
Other deaths from Violence		4	0	4
Other defined diseases ..	..	18	20	38
Causes ill-defined or unknown		2	1	3
		—	—	—
Total ...		68	79	147

This table shows that Infective Fevers caused 8 deaths. This must be considered as satisfactory when one sees that of this number 6 deaths were due to Influenza which towards the end of the year was epidemic in the Town.

Tuberculosis accounted for 17 deaths, giving a mortality rate of 1·23. This is rather higher than last year's figures but it may be that the epidemic of influenza had something to do with this slight rise over last year's figures of 1·11. The Pulmonary Tuberculosis rate was 1·02.

Cancer caused 12 deaths in a mortality rate of .88. This shows a decrease in comparison with last year's number of 20 in a mortality rate of 1.39 per 1,000.

Heart Disease was the cause of death in 13 cases, giving a rate of .95 per 1,000.

Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other respiratory diseases accounted for 15 deaths—a considerable increase on last year's figures of 8. Influenza again may account for this increase.

It is very satisfactory to note that no deaths were caused during the year by puerperal sepsis.

DEATHS AT ALL AGES DURING THE YEAR, 1921.

Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 yrs & over	Total
21	4	1	1	0	0	2	1	24	1	29	48	133

The above table shows the age incidence of deaths which actually occurred in the district. In addition to this number there were 13 deaths of local residents, death occurring in other districts.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Disease.				Total cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	...	...		3	} Nil	
Scarlet Fever	...	...		4		
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid		...		2		1
Puerperal Fever	...	...				
Pneumonia	...	...		7		4
Other diseases	{ Erysipelas	...		4		1
generally notifiable		Ophthalmia		1		
(specify disease).		Neonatorum				
Other diseases notifiable locally	...	...				
Tuberculosis	...	...				
(a) Pulmonary	Males	...	11			8
	Females	...	8			7
	Total	...	19			
Non-Pulmonary	Males	...				
	Females	...	2			2
	Total	...	2			
				42		23

Ophthalmia Neona- torum.	Cases.			Vision unim- paired	Vision im- paired	Total Blind- ness.	De'ths
	Notified.	Treated.					
		At home.	In hospital.				
I	I	I					

A study of the foregoing tables show that notifiable diseases for the year totalled 42. This is a very satisfactory figure when compared with the numbers in previous years.

	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921
Notifiable Diseases	279	278	211	118	63	42

The following table shows how the notifiable diseases were distributed throughout the year, and requires no special comment.

Monthly incidence of Infectious Diseases during the year :—

	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Totals
January	0	2	2	0	1	0	2	0	7
February	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	5
March	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
June	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	4
July	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3
August	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
September	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
October	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
November	0	1	0	2	1	0	2	0	6
December	0	1	0	5	1	0	2	1	10
Totals	3	4	2	7	4	1	19	2	42

Supplementary notifications of persons suffering from Tuberculosis, being admitted and discharged from Sanatoria :—

Form C (admitted to Sanatoria)	...	8
Form D (discharged from Sanatoria)	...	4
		—
		12

Analysis of total cases of Notifiable Diseases :

Disease	Und. 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 yr. & ov.	Tot- als
Diphtheria			1			1	1						3
Scarlet Fever						3	1						4
Enteric „ (including Paratyphoid)								1			1		2
Pneumonia			1		1			1	2	1		1	7
Other Diseases :													
Erysipelas									1	1	2		4
Ophthalmia	1												1
Neonatorum													
Tuberculosis:													
(a) Pulmonary													
M.						1	1	2	6	1			11
F.								1	5		2		8
Total													
(b) Non- Pulmonary													
M.													
F.								1		1			2
Total													
Totals ..	1		2		1	5	3	6	14	4	5	1	42

Analysis of total number of deaths from Notifiable Diseases :

Disease	Und. 1 yr	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-25 yrs.	25-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 yr. & ov.	To- tals
Enteric Fever							1						1
Pneumonia								1	1		1	1	4
Erysipelas											1		1
Tuberculosis Pulmonary													
M.								1	4		2	1	8
F.								1	6				7
Non- Pulmonary													
M.													
F.		1							1				2
Totals		1					1	3	12		4	2	23

The above tables showing the age incidence of deaths due to notifiable diseases are self explanatory. It will however be noted that there is a slight discrepancy between the number of deaths as returned locally and that returned by the Registrar General, in the cases of pneumonia and tuberculosis.

With regard to the efficiency of the notification of tuberculosis, it should be stated that 4 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis had not been notified, this gives a ratio of 4 to 15.

Causes of Sickness.

During the latter part of the year, Influenza was epidemic in the Town, in common with other neighbouring districts. Fortunately the disease was of a mild type, and cases showing respiratory complications were comparatively few in number having regard to the immense number of people affected.

Summary of Nursing Arrangements, etc.

In Rushden district there is one fully trained District Nurse, whose services are available for the nursing of patients in their own homes, but no provision is made for the home nursing of infectious diseases. The nurse works under the direction of the County Nursing Association, which I understand receives financial assistance from the County Authority.

The number of Midwives practising in the district is 4, who are with one exception unqualified.

There is a Cottage Hospital in the Town, with accommodation for 2 patients, but the majority of patients requiring

hospital treatment are sent to the Northampton General Hospital at Northampton.

A Small-pox Hospital is provided by the Rushden Council. This is situated on the Bedford Road, about a mile outside the Town. In this Institution there is accommodation for 6 patients, but in case of urgent necessity the number of beds could be increased to 12.

During the year an institution for the treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was opened by the County Council within the Town boundary. This Institution has accommodation for 68 patients, and admits all classes of Pulmonary cases. Already many inhabitants of Rushden suffering from this dread disease have been treated successfully at this institution.

There is no hospital for the treatment of Infectious Disease, but as the Town is relatively immune from these diseases, the erection of such an institution seems hardly warranted at the moment.

An ambulance belonging to the local St. John Ambulance Association is available for the transport of non-infectious cases and accidents to hospital.

Laboratory Work.

The Council has an arrangement with the Pathological Dept., of the Northampton General Hospital, for the examination of infective material and during the year 8 sputa were examined for the presence of the Tubercle Bacillus. Of these 1 was positive and 7 were negative, 6 swabs were also examined for the presence of the Bacillus of Diphtheria, and of these 4 were positive and 2 were negative.

One Widal re-action for Typhoid was collected, and with a positive result.

A stock of Diphtheria antitoxin is kept at the Council Buildings, and during the year 24,000 units were issued to the doctors.

LIST OF BYE-LAWS & ADOPTIVE ACTS MADE & ADOPTED BY THE RUSHDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

BYE-LAWS.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 19th Nov., 1891. | Bye-Laws as to new streets and buildings. |
| 19th Aug., 1903. | Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, Regulations as to. |
| 13th Nov., 1907. | Bye-laws for the prevention of Nuisances, etc. |

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

5th Nov., 1891.	Part 3 of the Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890.
30th March, 1903.	Private Street Works Act.
22nd Aug., 1908.	Parts 2 and 3 and sections 52, 53, 54, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66 and 68 of Part 4 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, subject to certain conditions and adaptations.
28th June, 1921.	Part 6 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

Sanitary Administration and Circumstances of the District.

Tabular summary of work of Sanitary Department during the year 1921.

1. Defects remedied under—

(a) Housing Town Planning etc. Acts	...	251
(b) Public Health Acts and Bye-laws	...	471
(c) Factory and Workshops Acts	...	45
	Total	767

2. Number of Inspections made under—

(a) Housing Town Planning etc. Acts	...	18
(b) Public Health Acts and Bye-laws	...	973
(c) Factory and Workshops Acts	...	80
(d) Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order		11
(e) Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restriction) Act, 1920		21
(f) Secondary Inspections	...	691
	Total	1794

3. Number of Preliminary Notices served under—

(a) Housing Town Planning etc. Acts	...	40
(b) Public Health Acts		171
	Total	211

4. Number of Statutory Notices served under—

(a) Public Health Acts	...	8
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of which 5 were complied with and 3 were again reported to the Council with a view to proceedings being taken, and these were pending at the end of the year.

The details of above work will be found in the Appendix to this report.

Water Supply.

The Town draws its water from the Sywell Reservoir, situate about 11 miles distant. The supply is a constant one and unlimited. This year Rushden must consider itself most fortunate, for in spite of the drought which caused so much hardship due to water shortage in neighbouring towns Rushden has not suffered any lack of water.

Scavenging.

The collection of house refuse is carried out with two open carts. The number of loads collected during the year was 2,214, and 456 loads of tins, bottles, etc., were also collected. Galvanized iron sanitary ash-bins are provided at most houses by their owners, but during the year 165 new ash-bins of this type have been provided under notice from the Sanitary Department.

The collection of refuse is made once weekly.

Closet Accommodation.

The Water Closet type obtains everywhere in the Town and any reported defects have been promptly rectified.

During the year 411 inspections to places where food is prepared, were made.

Seven Slaughter-houses exist in the district, and of these 4 are licensed and 3 are registered. Two hundred and ninety-three inspections of these premises were made during the year, but no nuisances were found. Periodical lime-washing is carried out.

For the disinfection of infected clothing, bedding, etc., a temporary chamber has been in use during the year. Disinfection is carried out by means of sulphur fumigation and formalin sprays. One hundred and ninety-one articles were dealt with during the year.

Food and Drugs.

Executive powers under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and the Milk and Cream Regulations, are in the hands of the County Authority.

Particulars of samples taken during the year 1921—1922.

1.	Number and kind of samples taken (milk)	19
2.	Number of Vendors	12
3.	Number of Prosecutions	1
4.	Number of Convictions	1

With one exception all the samples were genuine. One sample purchased from the wholesaler as he was about to deliver to a retailer, was found, on analysis, to contain 12 per cent. of added water. Proceedings were instituted, and the defendant was fined £2.

Public Health Staff.

M.O.H.—Part time.

Sanitary Inspector.—Whole time.

In both cases half of salary is recoverable from the Exchequer grant through the County Council.

Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	70
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	...	...	...	64

(1) Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection.—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	114
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regul., 1910	18
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	11

(2) Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	76
---	-----	----

(3) Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	Nil
---	-----	-----	-----	-----

(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit.	
	(a) by owners	Nil
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ...	Nil
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	8
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—	
	(a) by owners	4
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
C.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning etc. Act, 1909.		
(1)	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders .	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	Nil
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	Nil
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	Nil

In conclusion I have to thank all the Members of the Council for the kindness and consideration they have shown me and the help they have given me in taking up the duties of M.O.H. to the town. I have also to thank all the Officers of the Council for their assistance, and especially Mr. Piper, who has shown the highest efficiency and tact in carrying out his often difficult duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

OLIVIER A. J. MURISSET,

M.B., CH.B., EDIN.

Medical Officer of Health.

Summary of Veterinary Inspector's Report, 1921.

	3 months ending 31st Mar.	3 months ending 25th June	3 months ending 10th Sep.	3 months ending 9th Dec.
Premises Inspected ..	29	28	28	25
Milch Cows and Heifers Inspected	164	166	174	172
Cows with induration of I quarter (probably Tuberculosis origin)	I		3	I
Cows with acute Mastitis (temporary)		I		

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To the CHAIRMAN and MEMBERS of the RUSHDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report upon the work carried out during the year 1921.

It will be seen from the Tabular Summary given in the Appendix that under the several Acts and Regulations in force in the district that a total 818 defects have been remedied : 251 being under the Housing Town Planning Etc. Acts, 471 under the Public Health Acts, and 45 under the Factory and Workshops Acts.

As all voluntary improvements to private dwelling-houses and other premises, with regard to sanitary arrangements and conveniences, automatically come under my supervision, I include these in my tables, which number in detail 51, and are to be found in the Appendix.

In comparing the totals with those of last year (1920) it will be seen that a great increase has taken place : this is explained by the fact that I held office in 1920 for only 9 months.

At this juncture I should like to say that I have experienced some difficulty in obtaining repairs and improvements to certain property owing to the still high cost of materials and labour, but I think the succeeding year will see many decreases in this respect, and I hope automatically an increase in the improvements carried out.

In procuring the remedy of defects and necessary improvements to property, 171 preliminary notices have been served under the Public Health Acts and 40 under the Housing Town Planning Etc. Acts. In view of certain persons who were in default, not complying with the notice within a reasonable time, it has been necessary for me to again send out reminders, and these cases have caused the service of 48 cautionary letters. In certain cases I again had no response to my reminder, and in 8 instances I found it necessary to go to the Council for powers to serve the statutory notices. Following upon the expiration of these notices I visited the premises, and finding that 3 had not been complied with, it was necessary for me to again bring the matter before the

Council for further instructions: the Council whereupon resolved to prosecute the offenders, and the hearing of the cases was to take place early in the year 1922.

Again referring to the Appendix it will be seen that chief among the items was the cleansing of 83 rooms under the Public Health Acts: and 64 rooms under the Housing Town Planning Etc. Acts: making a total of 147 rooms stripped and cleansed.

This liability, whoever it may concern, undoubtedly has been allowed to lapse through the prohibitive cost, but in each case I am glad to say it was only necessary to draw attention to the nuisance and to have the matter put in hand at once.

Defective paving to yards is another important item, and from the Tabular Summary it will be seen that a total of 29 were either repaired or repaved.

Another important item was the provision of additional ventilation to 19 sleeping rooms. In each of these cases it was found that a fireplace did not exist in the bedrooms to complete the circuit of ventilation and proper ventilators were fixed in addition to windows.

It will be of interest to add at this point that 34 windows were made to open which previously were fixed.

Fourteen houses were found to have defective drains. All defects were remedied and were approved only after a satisfactory test.

In the course of one's work, one is struck by the absence of the obsolete type of surface fittings often to be found in other towns. It does not necessarily follow that the drains proper are of a modern type: and time will only show whether they are in a satisfactory state.

The condition of affairs in Rushden as compared with other towns is exceedingly satisfactory for few can boast with Rushden of having a separate water closet for each house also a complete water carriage system.

During the year 6 houses were provided with the Town water supply, i.e., by a tap being fixed in each kitchen in place of one defective pump supplying the 6 houses.

Before closing my comments upon the Appendix, I should like to draw attention to the item with regard to House Refuse Receptacles. In my report for 1920, I drew attention to the necessity of this receptacle for the facilitating of scavenging. From the 12th of May in that year, 75 houses had been provided, and with the addition of another 165 for 1921, plus those provided voluntary by owners of houses, some great benefit should be felt. I am informed by the Surveyor that scavenging has been much more efficient since the provision of the sanitary ash-bin.

Inspections and Visits.

I have prepared a list of Inspections and Visits which total 1,840, an increase of 593 over the figure for 1920. The highest of this number is for Slaughterhouses, being 293, which shows that particular attention has been paid to these premises. The next highest figure is for Butchers' Shops, this being 96. Fish shops have claimed much attention, also the Stalls on the provisional Market Place, the number of visits being given in the list for Food Premises.

One hundred and forty-six complaints were received during the year. All the complaints were thoroughly justified in seeking the aid of the Sanitary Department. It should be noted that all complaints are treated as being strictly confidential.

With regard to the inspection of houses it will be seen that 96 were inspected under the Public Health Acts, and 18 under the Housing Acts, making a total of 114 houses inspected ; the list of defects remedied will be found in the Appendix.

Of other premises such as back yards, stables, outbuildings, etc., a total of 104 inspections were made. To prevent confusion it should be noted that yards, stables and outbuildings, etc., were not in any way connected with the houses mentioned above.

It will be seen that 137 premises were inspected with a view to proper refuse receptacles being provided and that 165 galvanized iron sanitary ashbins were provided. Of these 28 relate to last year.

The above inspections quoted from the Appendix are primary initial inspections. As each case is carefully followed up until a nuisance is abated, and the several statutes complied with, 691 secondary visits or re-inspections were necessitated.

In compliance with the Articles issued by the late Local Government Board, the Medical Officer of Health has been furnished with a list of the inspections made.

Housing Town Planning Etc. Acts.

Under these Acts only 18 houses were inspected, this being 38 less than the number in 1920, but in referring to the Appendix it will be found the number of the defects remedied made a total of 251, against 159 for the preceding year : this is accounted for by the surplus defects from that year being dealt with during 1921.

A Tabular Summary of work carried out during the year will be found in the Medical Officer of Health's Report in compliance with the Ministry of Health's circular.

In comparing my Tabular Summary with that issued by the Ministry of Health, it seems to me that detail of the defects actually remedied is of more importance than a statement as to the number of houses inspected and notices served, or number of houses found unfit for human habitation, and the number of houses rendered fit for human habitation, as it may take but little to render a house unfit for habitation and little to render the same house fit for habitation.

The largest item of works carried out under these Acts is 64 rooms and 12 staircases stripped and cleansed. Second on the list is the provision of proper ventilation in 19 bedrooms, and the 34 cases in which windows in rooms were made to open ; 10 foodstores were also provided with proper means of ventilation.

With regard to Closing Orders upon certain existing property which is undoubtedly unfit for habitation, the matter must be held in abeyance on account of the shortage of houses in the town. One has therefore to make the best of these unsatisfactory dwellings by recommending that certain repairs should be carried out in order to put them in a reasonable state of repair—temporarily—fit for habitation.

When the building of houses is a possible venture on the part of property owners and others, greater activity will have to be exercised under these Acts.

The remedying of certain defects to property which was in hand and not completed at the end of the year is not included in this year's figures, but will be shown in detail in next year's report.

Infectious Disease and Disinfection.

On the reception of a notification of an infectious disease I have, acting under the instruction of the Medical Officer of Health, visited the home and made notes of the sanitary circumstances, and have procured the remedy of any defects found. Instructions as to isolation etc. have been given to those in charge of the case.

From the table of Inspections and visits made it will be seen that 37 houses, together with the surrounding premises were inspected on account of Infectious Disease. Careful notes have been taken as to possible sources of infection, and steps taken to prevent a further occurrence in the household. The occupants of the house and those in attendance upon the patient have been advised as to the use of disinfectants. Children of school age living in the house have been excluded from Sunday and Day Schools during the isolation and convalescence of the patient, and careful attention given to likely carriers of infection and possible contacts.

From the list appended it will be seen that 224 infected articles were dealt with and 44 rooms were disinfected after cases of infectious disease, making a total of 268 disinfections as against 160 for the preceding year.

With regard to the disinfection of infected beds it will be gratifying to note that a saving of £79 15s. has been effected for the year 1921, as prior to my taking over the duties of Sanitary Inspector the Council allowed £1 7s. 6d. for each infected bed and destroyed it. In view of the 58 received during this year and the 23 for 1920, I still favour my experiment, and can so far as circumstances allow me, receive any article of bedding or wearing apparel for disinfection and return them to their owners in 8 hours. The saving for the 2 years is £109 15s. 10d.

I am not prepared to state that large quantities could be dealt with everyday, i.e., "In the event of an Epidemic," but under normal conditions I can go on until the Council deem it advisable to purchase a small steam disinfector.

It is worthy to note that it was found necessary to cause 10 rooms to be stripped and cleansed after they had been disinfected on account of infectious disease.

Rooms and contents disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease.

Diphtheria	...	...	3	
Scarlet Fever	..	...	3	
Erysipelas	...	...	4	
Cancer ...	...	...	5	
Tuberculosis	...	...	23	
Enteric Fever	...	...	2	
Other Diseases	...	...	4	
			—	44

Articles disinfected at the Depot.

Library and Other Books	...	...	13	
Beds ...	...	...	27	
Mattresses	...	...	12	
Bolsters	...	...	19	
Pillows ...	...	...	60	
Blankets	...	...	13	
Sheets ...	...	...	5	
Other Bedding	...	...	12	
Wearing Apparel	...	...	30	
			—	191

Articles destroyed by request at the Sewage Farm.

Beds ...	...	...	12	
Pillows ...	...	...	8	
Bolsters	...	...	3	
Mattresses	...	...	7	
Other Articles	...	...	3	
			—	33
				—
		Total	...	268
				—

Factory and Workshops Acts.

During the year 80 inspections were made of Factories, Workshops, Outworkers' Premises and Workplaces. At several of the Factories further breaches of the Sanitary Accommodation Order, 1903, over those of last year, were found, and in each case the required intervening air space had been erected before the year had expired. It was necessary in 3 instances to cause extra accommodation to be provided having regard to the number of persons employed.

In 13 instances the lavatories and W.C.'s. were found to be in a dirty condition : they were at once cleansed upon the occupiers attention being drawn to the matter.

In 16 instances it was found necessary to cause improvements and repairs to be carried out to the sanitary conveniences, among which were instances of insufficient appliances for flushing and cleansing.

With regard to the Escape in Case of Fire : in only one instance was it necessary to cause same to be thoroughly repaired and strengthened. Generally speaking the Factories in the district are kept in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Up to the end of the year, 64 Factories were on the register in which is recorded a full and thorough survey of the premises, number of work-people (male and female) and the sanitary accommodation provided.

Seventeen Workshops and Workplaces were inspected during the year, and chief among the defects found was the neglect of annual lime-washing and a few other defects : a list of which will be found in the Appendix. At the end of the year 36 Workshops were on the Register.

Under the Factory and Workshops Acts it is necessary for occupiers of Factories and Workshops who are employing persons outside their premises to furnish a list of such persons (giving full name and address) twice during the year (i.e., 1st February and 1st August) and during the year 103 lists were received containing the names of 254 Outworkers : 52 of these lists were returned blank. There were

22 names to be transferred to other districts and 1 name was notified to my department from another district.

In some districts where a number of Inspectors are employed an inspection is made of Outworkers premises at least twice in each year, but being single handed it has only been possible to inspect a fair number. In 3 instances premises were found to be in such a condition injurious to health and these defects were remedied.

Up to the present 17 Bakehouses are on the register, this I believe to be the total number of Bakehouses in the town. These have all been inspected and a full survey of the premises made and recorded in the Factory and Workshops register. During the year 8 of these premises were visited with respect to defects. The lime-washing was well carried out in all the premises.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Under the Order 18 Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops are on the register, and during the year 11 inspections were made. In certain instances it was necessary to draw the occupiers attention to the lime-washing which was carried out at once. Several other structural defects existed which have now been remedied.

It was necessary in many instances to draw the purveyors' attention to the absence of covers to the vessels containing milk, but in spite of the protests of the purveyor the covering of milk vessels has been insisted upon, and I believe my instructions to a large extent have been carried out.

It is to be regretted that many dairies open direct or communicate with the dwelling house, as I feel convinced that a certain amount of contamination takes place on this account. It is true that the worst cases exist only amongst the retailers of small quantities of milk, and I hope conditions will improve as time goes on.

Ice Cream Premises.

Attention has been given to these premises, which are few in number, and during the year it was necessary in one instance to condemn one of the premises owing to the lack of ventilation and light. The vendor's attention being called to the defect, steps were at once taken to erect a proper store well ventilated and constructed to admit of ample light and cleanliness.

In 2 instances the premises were thoroughly cleansed, and in 1 instance repairs were affected at my request.

Fried Fish Shops.

I have made 5 inspections of these premises, and on each occasion I have found the premises as clean as can be expected considering the nature of the business. There has not been any complaints with regard to the frying of fish.

Knacker's Yard.

There is still only one yard in this district, situated close to Shirley Road. The premises are of modern construction, and on each occasion of which I have visited them I find strict cleanliness has been observed. I have not received any complaints with regard to the offensive smells or other matters. The position of the site somewhat minimizes the chances of offensive odours reaching even the nearest dwelling-house.

Van Dwellers.

Spencer Park, Washbrook Road and the site on Higham Road has been used on 4 occasions by travelling Amusement Caterers, and during my visits I found the sites kept in a satisfactory condition and free from any nuisance.

Food Supply.

Of the many duties which devolve upon me is the inspection of the food supply. All important food premises are visited from time to time, and I find on casting the books that I have made 411 inspections of such premises.

With regard to fruit, grocers' and miscellaneous shops, it will be seen that 8 visits were made. By referring to the list of commodities taken therefrom owing to same being unfit for the food of man that my visits were justified. At this stage I should like to say my presence in this class of shop, in the eyes of customers, often arouses curiosity, and to avoid friction between myself and the proprietors a great amount of diplomacy has to be exercised.

Having regard to the short space of time the present market has been in existence I have only made 9 inspections, and up to the end of the year the food offered for sale did not give much cause for comment.

During my 96 inspections of the Butchers' Shops it has not been necessary for me to draw attention to any unclean parts of the premises. They have all been kept in a very clean condition.

With regard to Slaughter-houses, I have visited these premises 293 times during the year, and in one or two instances it was necessary to draw the proprietor's attention to the want of lime-washing, but on the whole they have been

kept fairly clean as far as circumstances will permit. I have paid careful attention to the offal and other waste matter in order to obviate any nuisances arising from them : the result of this there was only 1 complaint received.

The majority of my visits have been made during the times of slaughter, but as the hours at which slaughter takes place are not compulscrily notified to me it is impossible to time my visits so as to be present at all times of slaughter. As a result of this a certain amount of meat is bound to escape my attention.

In the interests of the consumer of butcher's meat the absence of a Public Abattoir is to be lamented. It would centralize the slaughtering of all animals intended for food and cause the whole of the meat to come under supervision.

It will be seen from the following list of diseased or unfit foods that a total of 2 tons 8 cwts. 2 qrs. 21 lbs. were either seized or surrendered, and that the details of the amount is shown.

I have given every consideration to those responsible for having unfit food upon their premises by allowing them to surrender same when the diseased condition of the meat could not be foreseen. On several occasions I have been consulted by the owners as to the soundness of carcasses about which they were in doubt. This action on behalf of the owners has increased the good feeling between themselves and the sanitary department, and obviated many seizures. In cases where it has been necessary to call for the whole or parts of the carcase to be surrendered there has been no demur.

In the instances where seizure was necessary, the Council, after carefully considering each case, did not deem it necessary to take legal proceedings.

At the present time there are 4 Licensed Slaughter-houses and 3 Registered. One of this number being again licensed after having been closed for several years. As the conditions met the minimum of requirements the Council did not refuse the license upon the application being made.

Speaking from a sanitary point of view the majority are in a fairly satisfactory condition, whilst the minority leave much to be desired.

Food Surrendered or Seized.

Carcases or parts of carcases condemned for Tuberculosis :

		cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
2 Carcases of Oxen	...	10	3	15
2 Forequarters of Oxen	...	1	2	9
Total	...	12	1	24

Organs.

		cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
4 Heads of Oxen	...	1	0	18
5 Livers of Oxen	...		2	22
3 Hearts of Oxen	...			12½
5 Sets of Lungs of Oxen	...		2	4
3 Spleens of Oxen	...			11
4 other Organs of Oxen	...	1	1	10
Quantities of Fat and Beef				26
2 Heads of Pigs	...		1	23
1 Pluck of Pig	...			7
Total		4	2	21½

Condemned for other Diseases.

		cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
2 Carcases of Sheep	...		2	19½
4 Carcases of Pigs	...	2	2	7
Total		3	0	26½

Organs.

		cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
7 Livers of Oxen	...	1	0	21
1 Lungs of Oxen	...			9
4 Legs of Pigs	...		1	3
4 Plucks of Pigs	...		1	11
1 Lungs	...			4
1 Pluck of Sheep	...			14
Piece of Mutton	...			6
Other Organs	...			15
Total		2	0	27

Canned Foods.

		cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
1 Tin of Meat	...			2
13 Tins of Vegetables	...		1	8
48 Tins of Fruit	...		3	12½
1 Tin of Milk	...			1
7 Tins of Fish	...			5
1 Tin of Jam	...			2
Total		1	1	2½

Other Foods.

			cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Goosberries	...	...	10	2	0
Peas	...	...	14	1	4
Total			24	3	4

Grand Total : 2 tons 8 cwts. 2 qrs. 21½ lbs.

Storage of Petroleum.

A total of 46 visits have been made to premises where Petroleum or Carbide of Calcium is stored, and in each case where defects in the store have been found, steps have at once been taken to remedy the evils.

Upon the usual applications for renewals and new licenses being made, 13 were granted subject to the stores meeting with the requirements of the Petroleum Acts Orders and Regulations.

With regard to Carbide of Calcium, 8 licenses were granted subject to the commodity being kept in dry premises and in the case of bulk quantity in a proper hermetically sealed metal drum.

Conclusion.

Before closing my report, I feel it is my duty to refer to the great assistance I received from Dr. H. Stainer Baker, the late Medical Officer of Health.

It is my duty to thank the Council and other Officers once again for their untiring co-operation and support they have extended to me during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FREDK. S. F. PIPER,

M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspector.

Summary of the Work of the Sanitary Department.

Number and Description of Inspections and Visits made.

Complaints—with respect to ..	...	146
Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts	96	
" " " " Housing Acts	18	
	—	114
Other premises inspected	...	104
Premises inspected with respect to		
Refuse Receptacles	...	137
Food Premises.		
Slaughter-houses, Inspections of	...	293
Butchers Shops, " "	...	96
Fish Shops " "	...	5
Fish and Meat Stalls on Market (collectively)	9	
Fruit, Grocers and Miscellaneous Shops	...	8
	—	411
Petroleum Acts.		
Petrol Stores	...	31
Carbide of Calcium	...	15
	—	46
Factory and Workshops Acts.		
Factories	...	31
Workshops and Workplaces	...	17
Outworkers premises	...	24
Bakehouses	...	8
	—	80
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order.		
Inspection of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops		11
Zymotic Diseases.		
Enteric Fever, Inspection of houses and premises		
after cases of ...	...	4
Scarlet Fever, " " "		7
Erysipelas, " " "		4
Diphtheria, " " "		4
Tuberculosis, " " "		10
Meningitis, " " "		2
Cancer, " " "		1
Small-pox Contacts, " " "		5
	—	37

Secondary visits with respect to Nuisances, etc.	691
Knackers Yard, Inspection of ...	2
Fair Grounds, „ ...	4

**Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest
(Restrictions) Act, 1920.**

Applications for certificates and houses inspected	12
Certificates granted and houses revisited ...	9
	— 21

**Houses at which Smoke Test has been
applied to the drains.**

For voluntary improvements ...	4
For other purposes ...	13
	— 17

**Houses at which Water Test has been
applied to the drains.**

For voluntary improvements ...	6
For other purposes ...	13
	— 19
Total ...	1840

APPENDIX.

TABULAR SUMMARY OF THE WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Houses provided with the Council's water supply	6
Paving to yards repaired or relaid	23
Roofs repaired	5
Rain water gutters and down pipes repaired	5
Rain water gutters fixed	1
Ventilating pipes repaired	2
Ventilating pipes fixed	2
Houses at which drains were repaired	14
Houses at which drains were relaid	6
New gullies fixed	5
Obstructions removed from drains	31
W.C. pans fixed in place of defective pans	5
W.C. traps fixed in place of defective pans	2
W.C. flushing cisterns repaired	5
Inspection chambers built	2
Inspection chambers repaired	1
Sink waste pipes repaired	4
Dampness prevented	17
Wood floors and joists to rooms renewed	6
Quarried floors repaired	2
Rooms stripped and cleansed	83
Internal walls repaired	22
Internal ceilings repaired	4
Accumulations removed	8
Glazed sinks and waste pipes fixed	1
Removal of animals from premises (instances)	5
Outhouses lime-washed	1
Other nuisances	38

Ice Cream Premises.

New premises erected in place of insanitary premises	1
Premises cleansed	2
Premises repaired	1

House Refuse.

Houses provided with galvanised iron sanitary ash-bins	...	...	...	165
				47 ¹

Voluntary Improvements.

New lines of drains laid	..	...	11
Inspection chambers constructed		...	3
Glazed gullies fixed	...	...	8
Pedestal W.C. pans fixed with flushing cisterns and water supply		...	7
Urinals fixed with flushing cisterns		...	1
Lavatory basins fixed	...	...	4
Waste pipes fixed	...	...	5
New cubicles formed for W.C.'s		...	3
Soil and vent pipes erected	...	...	4
Glazed sinks and waste pipes fixed		...	1
Paving to yards relaid	..	...	1
Other nuisances	...	...	1
Baths fixed	...	...	2
			51

Factories and Workshops.

FACTORIES—

Provided with sanitary conveniences	...	3
Sanitary conveniences cleansed	...	13
Sanitary conveniences improved	...	16
Urinal accomodation provided	...	1

WORKSHOPS—

Walls and ceilings lime-washed	...	3
Walls and ceilings repaired	...	1
Floors repaired	...	1
Rain water gutters fixed	...	1
W.C.'s repaired	...	1
Other nuisances	...	1

OUTWORKERS' PREMISES—

Rooms repaired	...	1
Rooms cleansed	...	3
		45

TABULAR SUMMARY OF THE WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER
THE HOUSING TOWN PLANNING, ETC., ACTS.

Walls and ceilings of rooms stripped and papered or distempered	64
Walls and ceilings of staircases and passages stripped and papered or distempered	12
Walls repaired	18
Ceilings repaired	8
Roofs repaired	11
Extra ventilation to rooms provided ...	19
Windows repaired and made to open ...	34
Fireplaces repaired	13
External walls repaired	16
Paving to yards repaired	6
Damp walls rendered dry	15
Quarried floors repaired	6
Wood floors repaired	5
Ventilation to food-stores provided ...	10
R.W.P. gutters repaired	1
Coppers repaired	3
Internal doors repaired	1
Defective staircases repaired	9
	251
Summary of Totals.	
Housing Town Planning Etc. Acts ...	251
Public Health Acts	471
Public Health Acts (Voluntary Improvements)	51
Factory and Workshops Acts	45
Grand Total	818

TABULAR SUMMARY ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

9. Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the
year :—

(a) Total	70
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	64

(1) Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection.—(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	114
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regul., 1910	18
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	11

(2) Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	76
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(3) Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit.	
(a)	by owners	Nil
(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	8
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(a)	by owners	4
(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the
Housing Town Planning etc. Act, 1909.

(1)	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ...	Nil
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	Nil
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	Nil

